

Opening Statement of Dr. Kevin Rhodes

Confirmation Hearing for Administrator for Office of Federal Procurement Policy

Office of Management and Budget

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

June 5, 2025

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Peters, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am deeply honored and immensely grateful to President Trump for nominating me to serve as the Administrator for the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my wife, Sandra, whose constant support and patience have made it possible for me to be here today. And I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor the brave service men and women whose sacrifices have allowed all of us to serve our country in this capacity.

Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to experience a wide range of opportunities that I believe have prepared me well for this role. I had the privilege to serve our nation for nearly 25 years in the United States Air Force, in roles that demanded both operational leadership and procurement expertise. Over the course of my service, I was honored to lead hundreds of procurement professionals while managing budgets exceeding \$2 billion annually across a wide range of complex acquisition programs. I served as Program Manager for Common Avionics, Director of Operations for the KC-46 program, and Director of Acquisition for the White House Military Office, where I had the distinct honor of working directly with three sitting U.S. Presidents.

In these roles, I saw first-hand both the immense capability and the frustrating limitations of our federal procurement system. While we have many dedicated professionals and some world-class programs, the system too often remains burdened by excessive bureaucracy, rigid regulations, and outdated processes that hinder speed, innovation, and competition. While I was privileged to lead on two separate occasions the Department of Defense's best managed program respectively in acquisition and logistics. We must create a culture and system where innovation, speed, and meeting objectives is the norm, not the exception.

Since retiring from the Air Force, I continued to serve in industry as the Executive Vice President of Syscon North America, where I led strategy, government relations, and business operations. This blend of public service and private sector experience has reinforced my conviction that our procurement system must evolve to meet the demands of today's fast-moving technology environment, ensure the best outcomes for taxpayers, and enhance our national security posture.

If confirmed, one of my primary objectives will be to lead the comprehensive and thoughtful Revolutionary Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) overall (RFO). The FAR has become an increasingly complicated and inflexible framework that often stifles innovation and limits competition. Earlier this year President Trump rightly called for reducing bureaucracy and eliminating unnecessary regulations that stifle investment and innovation. I am fully committed to executing the President's vision.

A modernized acquisition system must reduce costs, increase speed, and open doors for greater competition. We must make it easier for small businesses, non-traditional vendors, and innovative companies to do business with the federal government. By growing and diversifying our industrial base, we don't just foster competition — we also build resilience into our supply chains, promote innovation, and enhance national security by ensuring that the United States is never overly dependent on limited sources of supply.

At the same time, this transformation must be done responsibly — balancing the need for oversight and accountability with the flexibility necessary to achieve better outcomes. I intend to work closely with Congress, federal agencies, industry partners, and our dedicated acquisition workforce to achieve that balance.

In closing, I want to again thank President Trump for this tremendous honor and my wife Sandra for her constant support. I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to serve, and I am committed to bringing my broad experience — from program offices to the White House, from combat operations to corporate boardrooms — to bear in driving meaningful reform that strengthens our procurement policies, better serves the American taxpayer, and enhances our national security.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.